Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17223 281740Z ACTION EUR-12

O R 281650Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4996
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 17223

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CSCE ELAB SHUM UR US

SUBJECT: SAKHAROV ACCEPTS AFL-CIO INVITATION

REF: MOSCOW 16686 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

- 1. SAKHAROV, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, VISITED EMBASSY AT HIS REQUEST NOVEMBER 28 TO INFORM US THAT ON NOVEMBER 27 HE RECEIVED REGISTERED LETTER FROM GEORGE MEANY INVITING SAKHAROV TO AFL-CIO MEETING IN LOS ANGELES. SAKHAROV SAID HE HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT INVITATION AND TO APPLY FOR SOVIET PASSPORT AND EXIT VISA FOR TEMPORARY VISIT TO US.
- 2. SAKHAROV GAVE US COPY OF WRITTEN STATEMENT HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT TO OVIR(THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE WHICH ISSUES PASSPORTS AND VISAS FOR TRAVEL ABROAD). INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT: TO OVIR, MOSCOW, FROM ANDREY DMITRIYEVICH SAKHAROV, ACADEMICIAN, THREE-TIME HERO OF SOCIALIST LABOR, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE,

DECLARATION

IN CONNECTION WITH AN INVITATION I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS, I REQUEST THAT YOU PREPARE FOR ME ON AN URGENT BASIS A PASSPORT FOR A TRIP TO THE USA BEGINNING DECEMBER 3, 1977, TOGETHER WITH MY WIFE YELENA GEORGIYEVNA BONNER, WHO ALREADY POSSESSES A PASSPORT FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL AND THEREFORE NEEDS ONLY A VISA

ATTACHED TO THIS DECLARATION IS A RECEIPT SHOWING THAT I HAVE PAID THE 30 RUBLE FEE, PHOTOGRAPHS AND A COPY OF THE INVITATION.

I AM PASSING A COPY OF THIS DECLARATION TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, SO THAT IT CAN INFORM THE AFL-CIO THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED ITS INVITATION.

NOVEMBER 28, 1977, SIGNED A. SAKHAROV. END TEXT

- 3. SAKHAROV ALSO GAVE US A COPY (IN RUSSIAN) OF A FOUR-PAGE ADDRESS HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER TO THE AFL-CIO MEETING. COPY OF ADDRESS WILL BE POUCHED TO EUR/SOV NOVEMBER 29.
- 4. SAKHAROV SAID THIS WOULD BE SECOND TIME HE HAS APPLIED FOR A SOVIET EXIT VISA, THE FIRST OCCASION BEING IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOBEL PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY TWO YEARS AGO. HE INDICATED HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT RESPONSE CONFIDENTIAL.

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HE WOULD RECEIVE FROM AUTHORITIES THIS TIME. HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION IF HE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO MAKE THIS TRIPAND WE DID NOTPRESS HIM ON THE POINT. HIS WIFE ADDED THAT IT HAD BEEN ALMOST TEN YEARS SINCE HE HAD HAD ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, AND PERHAPS THE AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION.

- 5. HE NOTED THAT SINCE REGISTERED LETTERS NORMALLY ARE NOT DELIVERED ON SUNDAYS, (HE RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM A YOUNG LADY WHO APPEARED AT HIS APARTMENT AT 8:00 AM LAST SUNDAY, AND WHO SAID SHE WAS A POSTAL WORKER) HE SUSPECTED THE MEANY INVITATION HAD BEEN HELD AND EVENTUALLY DELIVERED BY THE KGB.
- 6. SAKHAROV TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY AT SEVEN PM NOVEMBER 28 TO REPORT THAT MOSCOW OVIR OFFICIAL ZOTOV, UPON WHO SAKHAROV CALLED AFTER LEAVING THE EMBASSY EARLIER THAT DAY, HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT SAKHAROV'S APPLICATION FOR EXIT DOCUMENTS. ZOTOV REPORTEDLY TOLD SAKHAROV THE INVITATION WAS IMPROPER: IT MUST INVITE SAKHAROV AS MEANY'S PERSONAL GUEST,

NOT AS PARTICIPANT IN A MEETING "WHICH DID NOT HAVE PERMANENT CHARACTER." SAKHAROV TOLD US THE WISHED TO PURSUE THE MATTER, AND HOPED THAT AN APPROPRIATE INVITATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. (ALTHOUGH SAKHAROV DID NOT SAY SO WHE HE TELEPHONED, WE ASSUME HE HOPES ANY NEW INVITATION WILL INCLUDE HIS WIFE).

7. OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY SAKHAROV REPORTED SEPTEL. TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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